Solution to J&K problem

†316. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLIMANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal to solve the J&K problem has been submitted to India by the President of Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether some proposals for the solution' of above problem have also been submitted by Hurriyat leaders after returning from Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposals and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) President Musharraf of Pakistan has made various suggestions on the Jammu & Kashmir issue. In an interview to an Indian news channel in December, 2006 President Musharraf suggested identification of the area to which these proposals would apply, making the Line of Control irrelevant, demilitarisation and joint management. The issue of J&K is being discussed between India and Pakistan within the framework of the Composite Dialogue. During the last round of the Foreign Secretary talks, in January, 2006, the Foreign Secretaries discussed various proposals including the above four concepts. Our consistent position during the above talks was that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and therefore concepts such as joint management cannot be the basis of a settlement of the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. Any demilitarisation or re-deployment of security forces within the territory is a sovereign decision of Government of India based on our own assessment of prevailing security situation. Jammu and Kashmir already enjoys autonomy under the Indian Constitution and has in place a democratically elected government. On the other hand, there is only nominal autonomy in Pak Occupied Kashmir and there has been no popular election in Gilgit-Baltistan, which does not even have a legal or constitutional status.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Violence by ULFA in Assam

317. SHRIMATISHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he, during his recent visit to Myanmar, discussed the issue of stepped up violence by ULFA and its threat to the Hindi speaking and other outsiders to leave the State and urged to explore ways to destroy and uproot ULFA camps and its members who are using its territory to create disturbance in Assam;

(b) whether India and Myanmar agreed to expedite work on fencing their common border and to supply military hardware to institutionalise cooperation between their armies for operations against ULFAand other insurgent groups in the North-East; and

(c) to what extent this decision helped in reducing the threat?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The External Affairs Minister paid on official visit to Myanmar from 19-21 January, 2007. During his meetings with the Myanmar leadership, the full range of bilateral relations was discussed including the activities of Indian Insurgent Groups on the Indo-Myanmar border. Myanmar reiteratedlts commitment not to allow its territory to be used for activities inimical to India. Discussions with the Myanmar leadership also dwelt on defence cooperation and border management.

Safety of Indians in Iraq

318. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the execution of Saddam Hussein in Baghdad, there has been a spurt in incidents of blasts in Iraq;

(b) if so, whether there has been any casualty of Indians living there; and